

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches to client's systems, comprising the steps of:

- determining which of said software patches should be applied to said client's systems,

- collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites,

- interpreting which files will be affected by the installation of said software patches,

- interpreting which directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches,

- interpreting the operating system type, version and architecture said software patches apply to,

- interpreting dependencies on other layered products,

- determining which of vendor's upgrades and patches have been applied to client's systems,

- determining which said software upgrades and patches should be or should have been applied to said clients systems,

- collection of said patches and upgrades from said vendor's and downloading said patches and upgrades to client systems,

- interpreting the operating system type,
 - interpreting the operating system version,
 - interpreting the operating system architecture the patch applies to,
 - determining how much memory is needed to install said patch and upgrades,
 - interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install software upgrades and installing said software patches,
 - determining how dependencies on other layered products affect the installation of said patches and upgrades,
 - determining how dependencies on other patches, or software upgrades affect the installation of a patch,
 - determining how dependencies on other software upgrades affect the installation of a patch,
 - determining which files will be affected by the installation of a patch,
 - determining which directories will be affected by the installation of a patch,
 - backing-out said software patches that have been applied to said client's systems,
 - checking the permissions and ownership of the files referenced in the patch and ensuring that the system software is authentic,
 - determining which software patches should be installed by determining the needed software patches and the not needed software patches,
 - distributing said needed software patches to said client's systems,
- and
- installing said needed software patches.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)